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Constructive Dimension and Weak Truth-Table Degrees

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Abstract

This paper examines the constructive Hausdorff and packing dimensions of weak truth-table degrees. The main result is that every infinite sequence S with constructive Hausdorff dimension $\dim_H(S)$ and constructive packing dimension $\dim_P(S)$ is weak truth-table equivalent to a sequence R with $\dim_H(R) \geq \dim_H(S)/\dim_P(S) - \epsilon$, for arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$. Furthermore, if $\dim_P(S) > 0$, then $\dim_P(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$. The reduction thus serves as a *randomness extractor* that increases the algorithmic randomness of S , as measured by constructive dimension.

A number of applications of this result shed new light on the constructive dimensions of wtt degrees (and, by extension, Turing degrees). A lower bound of $\dim_H(S)/\dim_P(S)$ is shown to hold for the wtt degree of any sequence S . A new proof is given of a previously-known zero-one law for the constructive packing dimension of wtt degrees. It is also shown that, for any *regular* sequence S (that is, $\dim_H(S) = \dim_P(S)$) such that $\dim_H(S) > 0$, the wtt degree of S has constructive Hausdorff and packing dimension equal to 1.

Finally, it is shown that no single Turing reduction can be a *universal* constructive Hausdorff dimension extractor, and that *bounded* Turing reductions cannot extract constructive Hausdorff dimension. We also exhibit sequences on which weak truth-table and bounded Turing reductions differ in their ability to extract dimension.

1 Introduction

Hausdorff [6] initiated the study of dimension as a general framework to define the size of subsets of metric spaces. Recently this framework had been effectivized; Lutz [11] gives

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an overview of this historical development. Furthermore, Lutz [10, Section 6] reviews early results that anticipated the effectivization of Hausdorff dimension. *Constructive Hausdorff dimension* was defined by Lutz [10] to study effective dimension at the level of computability theory. Intuitively, given an infinite binary sequence S – interpreted as a language or decision problem – the constructive Hausdorff dimension $\dim_H(S)$ of S is a real number in the interval $[0,1]$ indicating the density of algorithmic randomness of the sequence. The constructive Hausdorff dimension of a class \mathcal{C} of sequences is the supremum of the dimensions of individual sequences in \mathcal{C} . For many classes \mathcal{C} of interest in computability theory, the problem of determining the constructive Hausdorff dimension of \mathcal{C} remains open.

Reimann [18] investigated in particular whether there are degrees of fractional constructive Hausdorff dimension. Stated in terms of individual sequences, Reimann asked which reducibilities (such as Turing, many-one, weak truth-table, etc.) are capable of increasing the constructive Hausdorff dimension of a sequence. We call such a reduction a *dimension extractor*, since its purpose bears a resemblance to that of the *randomness extractors* of computational complexity [22], which are algorithms that turn a source of weak randomness (a probabilistic source with low entropy) into a source of strong randomness (a source with high entropy). Viewing a sequence with positive, but still fractional, constructive Hausdorff dimension as a weak source of randomness, Reimann essentially asked whether such randomness can be extracted via a reduction to create a sequence with dimension closer to 1. If such extraction is *not* possible for some sequence S , this indicates that the degree of S under the reduction has fractional dimension.

A number of negative results for dimension extractors are known. Reimann and Terwijn [18, Theorem 3.10] proved that there are many-one and bounded truth-table degrees with constructive Hausdorff dimension strictly between 0 and 1. Later Reimann and Slaman [19] extended this result to truth-table degrees. Stephan [24] showed that there is a relativized world in which there exists a wtt degree of constructive Hausdorff dimension between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. Furthermore, Nies and Reimann [14] obtained a non-relativized variant of this result and constructed, for each rational α between 0 and 1, a wtt degree of constructive Hausdorff dimension α .

Doty [3] attempted positive results by considering the interaction between constructive Hausdorff dimension and *constructive packing dimension* [1], a dual quantity that is a constructive effectivization of classical packing dimension [25, 26], another widely-studied fractal dimension. The constructive packing dimension $\dim_P(S)$ of a sequence S always obeys

$$0 \leq \dim_H(S) \leq \dim_P(S) \leq 1,$$

with each inequality tight in the strong sense that there are sequences S in which $\dim_H(S)$ and $\dim_P(S)$ may take on any values obeying the stated constraint. Doty showed that every sequence S with $\dim_H(S) > 0$ is Turing equivalent to a sequence R with $\dim_P(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$, for arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$. This implies that the constructive packing dimension of the Turing degree of any sequence S with $\dim_H(S) > 0$ is equal to 1. Unfortunately, since $\dim_H(R) \leq \dim_P(R)$, this Turing reduction constitutes a weaker example of a dimension extractor than

that sought by Reimann and it tells us nothing of the constructive dimensions of arbitrary Turing degrees.

Doty [3] obtained stronger results for other effective dimensions such as computable dimension and various time and space bounded dimensions [9]. Zimand [28] has shown that, given two *independent* sequences with positive constructive Hausdorff dimension, a truth-table reduction with access to both sequences suffices to compute a sequence with constructive Hausdorff dimension equal to 1.

We obtain in the current paper stronger positive results for constructive dimension extractors, dual to those obtained for other effective dimensions in [3]. Our main result, in section 2, is that, given any infinite sequence S and $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $R \equiv_{\text{wtt}} S$ such that $\dim_{\text{H}}(R) \geq \frac{\dim_{\text{H}}(S)}{\dim_{\text{P}}(S)} - \epsilon$ and, if $\dim_{\text{P}}(S) > 0$, then $\dim_{\text{P}}(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$. This has immediate consequences for the dimensions of weak truth-table degrees:

- Given any sequence S , $\dim_{\text{H}}(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S)) \geq \frac{\dim_{\text{H}}(S)}{\dim_{\text{P}}(S)}$.
- If $\dim_{\text{P}}(S) > 0$, then $\dim_{\text{P}}(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S)) = 1$, implying that *every* wtt degree has constructive packing dimension 0 or 1.
- Given any *regular* sequence S such that $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) > 0$, $\dim_{\text{H}}(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S)) = 1$, where a sequence S is regular if it satisfies $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) = \dim_{\text{P}}(S)$.

In section 3, we use Theorem 2.1 to show that, for every $\alpha > 0$, there is no *universal* Turing reduction that is guaranteed to extract dimension from all sequences of dimension at least α . We also obtain the result that *bounded* Turing reductions (which are allowed to make at most a constant number of queries to the input sequence) cannot extract dimension, and we show examples of sequences in which bounded reductions and weak truth-table reductions differ in their ability to extract dimension. In particular, we show that there are sequences from which some bounded reduction can extract packing dimension 1, while no weak truth-table reduction can compute a sequence with packing dimension greater than 0, and there are sequences from which some wtt reduction can extract *Hausdorff* dimension 1, while no bounded reduction can compute a sequence with packing dimension greater than 0.

Very recently, Joe Miller independently [13] answered Reimann's original question by extending the result of Reimann and Nies from wtt reductions to Turing reductions; i.e., there are sequences of positive constructive Hausdorff dimension that compute (via Turing reductions) no sequence of higher constructive Hausdorff dimension. Combined with Zimand's previously mentioned two-source extractor [28], this mirrors a phenomenon in randomness extractors used in computational complexity, which is that no function can extract randomness from a single classical probabilistic source; two or more independent sources of randomness are required. See [22] for an explanation of this phenomenon and a survey of randomness extractors in computational complexity.

Before going into the details of the results, we introduce the concepts and notations formally.

Notation. We refer the reader to the textbooks of Li and Vitányi [8] for an introduction to Kolmogorov complexity and algorithmic information theory and of Odifreddi [16] and Soare [23] for an introduction to computability theory. Although we follow mainly the notation in these books, we nevertheless want to remind the reader on the following definitions, either for the readers' convenience or because we had to choose between several common ways of denoting the corresponding mathematical objects.

All logarithms are base 2. \mathbb{N} denotes the set $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ of the natural numbers including 0. $\{0, 1\}^*$ denotes the set of all finite, binary *strings*. For all $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, $|x|$ denotes the *length* of x . λ denotes the empty string. $\mathbf{C} = \{0, 1\}^\infty$ denotes the *Cantor space*, the set of all infinite, binary *sequences*. For $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and $y \in \{0, 1\}^* \cup \mathbf{C}$, xy denotes the concatenation of x and y , $x \sqsubseteq y$ denotes that x is a *prefix* of y (that is, there exists $u \in \{0, 1\}^* \cup \mathbf{C}$ such that $xu = y$) and $x \sqsubset y$ denotes that $x \sqsubseteq y$ and $x \neq y$. For $S \in \{0, 1\}^* \cup \mathbf{C}$ and $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, $S[i]$ denotes the i^{th} bit of S , with $S[0]$ being the leftmost bit, $S[i..j]$ denotes the substring consisting of the i^{th} through j^{th} bits of S (inclusive), with $S[i..j] = \lambda$ if $i > j$.

Reductions and Compression. Let M be a Turing machine and $S \in \mathbf{C}$. We say M *computes* S if M on input $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (written $M(n)$), outputs the string $S[0..n-1]$. We define an *oracle Turing machine* to be a Turing machine M that can make constant-time queries to an oracle sequence and we let OTM denote the set of all oracle Turing machines [27]. For $R \in \mathbf{C}$, we say M *operates with oracle* R if, whenever M makes a query to index $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the bit $R[n]$ is returned. We write M^R to denote the oracle Turing machine M with oracle R . We identify an infinite binary sequence $S \in \mathbf{C}$ with the language of which S is the characteristic sequence; i.e., the set that contains n exactly when $S[n] = 1$. In such a case, given $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, $S[x]$ may also be interpreted as the binary condition “ x is in the language S ”. Similarly, we identify each infinite binary sequence as representing the characteristic sequence of a subset of \mathbb{N} .

Let $S, R \in \mathbf{C}$ and $M \in \text{OTM}$. We say S is *Turing reducible to* R via M and we write $S \leq_T R$ via M , if M^R computes S (that is, if $M^R(n) = S[0..n-1]$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$). In this case, write $R = M(S)$. We say S is *Turing reducible to* R and we write $S \leq_T R$, if there exists $M \in \text{OTM}$ such that $S \leq_T R$ via M . We say S is *Turing equivalent* to R , and we write $S \equiv_T R$, if $S \leq_T R$ and $R \leq_T S$. The *Turing lower span* of S is $\text{span}_T(S) = \{ R \in \mathbf{C} \mid R \leq_T S \}$ and the *Turing degree* of S is $\text{deg}_T(S) = \{ R \in \mathbf{C} \mid R \equiv_T S \}$.

Let $S, R \in \mathbf{C}$ and $M \in \text{OTM}$ such that $S \leq_T R$ via the oracle Turing machine M . Let the notion $\#(M^R, S[0..n-1])$ denote the *query usage* of M^R on $S[0..n-1]$, the index of the rightmost bit of R queried by M when computing $S[0..n-1]$.

We say S is *weak truth-table (wtt) reducible to* R via M and we write $S \leq_{\text{wtt}} R$ via M , if $S \leq_T R$ via M and there is a computable function $q : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\#(M^R, S[0..n-1]) \leq q(n)$ [5].

We say S is *bounded Turing (bT) reducible to* R via M (or simply *bounded reducible*) and we write $S \leq_{\text{bT}} R$ via M , if $S \leq_T R$ via M and there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the number of bits of R queried when computing $S[n]$ is at most c [7, 16].

We say S is *truth-table (tt) reducible to R via M* and we write $S \leq_{\text{tt}} R$ via M , if $S \leq_{\text{T}} R$ via M and, for all $R' \in \mathbf{C}$, $M(R')$ is defined; i.e., M is total with respect to the oracle [17].

Bounded reductions and wtt reductions are incomparable. However, every tt reduction is a wtt reduction.

Given $\Delta \in \{\text{tt}, \text{wtt}, \text{bT}\}$, define $S \leq_{\Delta} R$, $S \equiv_{\Delta} R$, $\text{span}_{\Delta}(S)$ and $\text{deg}_{\Delta}(S)$ analogously to their counterparts for Turing reductions.

Define

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_M^-(S, R) &= \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#(M^R, S[0..n-1])}{n}, \\ \rho_M^+(S, R) &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#(M^R, S[0..n-1])}{n}.\end{aligned}$$

Viewing R as a compressed version of S , $\rho_M^-(S, R)$ and $\rho_M^+(S, R)$ are respectively the best- and worst-case compression ratios as M decompresses R into S . Note that $0 \leq \rho_M^-(S, R) \leq \rho_M^+(S, R) \leq \infty$.

The following lemma is useful when one wants to compose two reductions:

Lemma 1.1 (Doty [2]). *Let $S, S', S'' \in \mathbf{C}$ and $M_1, M_2 \in \text{OTM}$ such that $S' \leq_{\text{T}} S$ via M_1 and $S'' \leq_{\text{T}} S'$ via M_2 . There exists $M \in \text{OTM}$ such that $S'' \leq_{\text{T}} S$ via M and:*

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_M^+(S'', S) &\leq \rho_{M_2}^+(S'', S') \rho_{M_1}^+(S', S). \\ \rho_M^-(S'', S) &\leq \rho_{M_2}^-(S'', S') \rho_{M_1}^-(S', S). \\ \rho_M^-(S'', S) &\leq \rho_{M_2}^+(S'', S') \rho_{M_1}^-(S', S).\end{aligned}$$

(The last bound is not explicitly stated in [2], but it holds for the same reason as the second one).

For $S \in \mathbf{C}$, the *lower and upper Turing compression ratios of S* are respectively defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\rho^-(S) &= \min_{\substack{R \in \mathbf{C} \\ M \in \text{OTM}}} \{ \rho_M^-(S, R) \mid S \leq_{\text{T}} R \text{ via } M \}, \\ \rho^+(S) &= \min_{\substack{R \in \mathbf{C} \\ M \in \text{OTM}}} \{ \rho_M^+(S, R) \mid S \leq_{\text{T}} R \text{ via } M \}.\end{aligned}$$

Doty [2] showed that the above minima exist. Note that $0 \leq \rho^-(S) \leq \rho^+(S) \leq 1$.

Constructive Dimension. Lutz [10] gives an introduction to the theory of constructive dimension. We use Mayordomo's characterization [12] of the constructive dimensions of sequences. For all $S \in \mathbf{C}$, the *constructive Hausdorff dimension* and the *constructive packing dimension* of S are respectively defined as

$$\dim_{\text{H}}(S) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(S[0..n-1])}{n} \text{ and } \dim_{\text{P}}(S) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{C(S[0..n-1])}{n},$$

where $C(w)$ denotes the *Kolmogorov complexity* of $w \in \{0,1\}^*$ (see [8]). If $\dim_H(S) = \dim_P(S)$, we say S is a *regular sequence*. Doty [2] showed that, for all $S \in \mathbf{C}$, $\rho^-(S) = \dim_H(S)$ and $\rho^+(S) = \dim_P(S)$.

For all $X \subseteq \mathbf{C}$, the *constructive Hausdorff dimension* and the *constructive packing dimension* of X are respectively defined as

$$\dim_H(X) = \sup_{S \in X} \dim_H(S) \text{ and } \dim_P(X) = \sup_{S \in X} \dim_P(S).$$

2 Constructive Dimension Extractors

Nies and Reimann [14] showed that wtt reductions cannot always extract constructive dimension.

Theorem 2.1 (Nies and Reimann [14]). *For every rational number α with $0 < \alpha < 1$, there exists a sequence $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that, for all wtt reductions M , $\dim_H(M(S)) \leq \dim_H(S) = \alpha$.*

Ryabko [20, 21] discovered the next theorem.

Theorem 2.2 (Ryabko [20, 21]). *For all $S \in \mathbf{C}$ and $\delta > 0$, there exists $R \in \mathbf{C}$ and $N_d \in \text{OTM}$ such that*

1. $S \leq_T R$ via N_d and $R \leq_T S$.
2. $\rho_{N_d}^-(S, R) \leq \dim_H(S) + \delta$.

The following theorem was shown in [2].

Theorem 2.3 (Doty [2]). *There is an oracle Turing machine M_d such that, for all $S \in \mathbf{C}$, there exists $R \in \mathbf{C}$ such that*

1. $S \leq_{\text{wtt}} R$ via M_d .
2. $\rho_{M_d}^-(S, R) = \dim_H(S)$.
3. $\rho_{M_d}^+(S, R) = \dim_P(S)$.

The following theorem, which is similar to Ryabko's Theorem 2.2, shows that the decoding machine M_d of Theorem 2.3 can also be reversed if the compression requirements are weakened.

Theorem 2.4. *Let M_d be the oracle Turing machine from Theorem 2.3. For all $\delta > 0$, there is an oracle Turing machine M_e such that, for all $S \in \mathbf{C}$, there is a sequence $R' \in \mathbf{C}$ such that*

1. $S \leq_{\text{wtt}} R'$ via M_d and $R' \leq_{\text{wtt}} S$ via M_e .
2. $\rho_{M_d}^+(S, R') \leq \dim_P(S) + \delta$.

Proof. Let $S \in \mathbf{C}$ and choose R for S as in Theorem 2.3. Let $\delta > 0$ and let $D \in (\dim_P(S), \dim_P(S) + \delta)$ be rational. By Theorem 2.3, there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all $n \geq n_0$, $\#(M_d^R, S[0..n-1]) < Dn$.

M_e will make use of the oracle Turing machine M_d . The proof of Theorem 2.3 in [2] shows that M_d has the following useful properties. First, write $S = s_1 s_2 s_3 \dots$ and $R = r_1 r_2 r_3 \dots$, where each $s_i, r_i \in \{0, 1\}^*$ are blocks such that $|s_i| = i$ and $|r_i| \leq |s_i| + o(|s_i|)$.

- M_d computes S from R in stages, where it outputs the block s_i on the i^{th} stage.
- Assuming that M_d has already computed $s_1 \dots s_i$, M_d uses only the block r_{i+1} and the prefix $s_1 \dots s_i$ to compute s_{i+1} .

Because of these properties, we can use M_d to search for a sequence R' that satisfies requirements 1 and 2 in the statement of Theorem 2.4. By Theorem 2.3, R satisfies these requirements, so such an R' will exist. By the above two properties of M_d , if we find a string $r' = r'_1 \dots r'_i$ that satisfies requirements 1 and 2 (in the sense described below), we will always be able to find an extension $r'' = r'_{i+1} \dots r'_j$ (for some $j > i$) such that $r' r''$ continues to satisfy the requirements. It will not matter if $r' \not\sqsubseteq R$, since M_d does not use the portion of R coming before block r_{i+1} to compute s_{i+1} . In other words, to reverse the computation of $M_d^{R'}$ and compute R' from S , we don't need to find the R from Theorem 2.3; we need only to find an R' that is “close enough”.

Define the oracle Turing machine M_e with oracle $S \in \mathbf{C}$ as follows. Let $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and assume inductively that the prefix $r' = r'_1 \dots r'_i \sqsubset R'$ has been computed, so that, letting $|s_1 \dots s_i| = n$,

- (a) $M_d^{r'}(n)$ outputs $S[0..n-1]$,
- (b) for all k with $n_0 \leq k \leq n$, $\#(M_d^{r'}, S[0..k-1]) \leq Dk$.

Let N be the smallest integer greater than 2^n such that $S[0..N-1] = s_1 \dots s_{i'}$, for some $i' \in \mathbb{N}$. M_e^S searches all strings $r'' \in \{0, 1\}^N$ until it finds one that satisfies

- (a) $M_d^{r''}(N)$ outputs $S[0..N-1]$,
- (b) for all k with $n_0 \leq k \leq N$, $\#(M_d^{r''}, S[0..k-1]) \leq Dk$.

M_e^S then outputs r'' and saves it for the computation of the next extension of R' . By the existence of R from Theorem 2.3 and a simple induction on the stages of computation that M_e performs and the fact that N is asymptotically larger than n , M_e^S will always be able to find such an r'' . Therefore, in the output sequence R' , for all but finitely many N , requirement (b) will be satisfied. Therefore the sequence R' will satisfy the two requirements of Theorem 2.4.

Finally, for any n , $M_e(n)$ makes no more than 2^{2n} queries to S and therefore M_e computes a wtt reduction. \square

The following theorem is the main result of this paper. It states that constructive packing dimension can be almost optimally extracted from a sequence of positive packing dimension, while at the same time, constructive Hausdorff dimension is *partially* extracted from this sequence, if it has positive Hausdorff dimension and packing dimension less than 1. The machine M_e from Theorem 2.4 serves as the extractor. Intuitively, this works because M_e compresses the sequence S into the sequence R . Since R is a compressed representation of S , R must itself be more incompressible than S . However, because dimension measures the compressibility of a sequence, this means that the constructive dimensions R are greater than those of S .

Theorem 2.5. *For all $\epsilon > 0$ and $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_P(S) > 0$, there exists $R \equiv_{\text{wtt}} S$ such that $\dim_P(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$ and $\dim_H(R) \geq \frac{\dim_H(S)}{\dim_P(S)} - \epsilon$.*

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_P(S) > 0$. Let $\delta > 0$ and R', M_d be as in Theorem 2.4. Let $R'' \in \mathbf{C}$ and $M \in \text{OTM}$ such that $R' \leq_T R''$ via M , $\rho_M^-(R', R'') = \dim_H(R')$ and $\rho_M^+(R', R'') = \dim_P(R')$ (the existence of M and R'' is asserted by Theorem 2.3). By Lemma 1.1, we have

$$\rho^+(S) \leq \rho_{M_d}^+(S, R') \rho_M^+(R', R''),$$

which, by construction of R' and R'' implies $\rho^+(S) \leq (\dim_P(S) + \delta) \dim_P(R')$. Since $\rho^+(S) = \dim_P(S)$,

$$\dim_P(R') \geq \frac{\dim_P(S)}{\dim_P(S) + \delta}.$$

Moreover (by Lemma 1.1 again), $\rho^-(S) \leq \rho_{M_d}^-(S, R') \rho_M^-(R', R'')$, which, by construction of R' and R'' , implies $\rho^-(S) \leq (\dim_P(S) + \delta) \dim_H(R')$. Since $\rho^-(S) = \dim_H(S)$,

$$\dim_H(R') \geq \frac{\dim_H(S)}{\dim_P(S) + \delta}.$$

Taking δ small enough, we get by the above inequalities: $\dim_P(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$ and $\dim_H(R) \geq \frac{\dim_H(S)}{\dim_P(S)} - \epsilon$. \square

Theorem 2.5 has a number of applications, stated in the following corollaries, which shed light on the constructive dimensions of sequences, spans and degrees.

Corollary 2.6. *Let $S \in \mathbf{C}$ and assume that $\dim_H(S) > 0$. Then the Hausdorff dimensions $\dim_H(\deg_T(S))$, $\dim_H(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S))$, $\dim_H(\text{span}_T(S))$ and $\dim_H(\text{span}_{\text{wtt}}(S))$ are all at least $\frac{\dim_H(S)}{\dim_P(S)}$.*

We obtain a zero-one law for the constructive packing dimension of Turing and weak truth-table lower spans and degrees.

Corollary 2.7. *For all $S \in \mathbf{C}$, the packing dimensions $\dim_P(\deg_T(S))$, $\dim_P(\text{span}_T(S))$, $\dim_P(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S))$ and $\dim_P(\text{span}_{\text{wtt}}(S))$ are each either 0 or 1.*

Therefore Theorem 2.1, establishing the existence of wtt degrees of fractional constructive Hausdorff dimension, does not extend to constructive packing dimension. Because of Theorem 2.1, we must settle for more conditional results for constructive Hausdorff dimension. We focus attention on regular sequences.

Corollary 2.8. *For all $\epsilon > 0$ and all regular $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_H(S) > 0$, there exists $R \equiv_{\text{wtt}} S$ such that $\dim_H(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$.*

Corollary 2.9. *For all regular $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_H(S) > 0$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_H(\text{span}_{\text{wtt}}(S)) &= \dim_H(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S)) = \dim_H(\text{span}_T(S)) = \dim_H(\deg_T(S)) = \\ \dim_P(\text{span}_{\text{wtt}}(S)) &= \dim_P(\deg_{\text{wtt}}(S)) = \dim_P(\text{span}_T(S)) = \dim_P(\deg_T(S)) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

We note that the zero-one law for the constructive packing dimension of Turing and wtt lower spans and degrees also follows from the following theorem due to Fortnow, Hitchcock, Pavan, Vinodchandran and Wang [4], giving a polynomial-time extractor for constructive packing dimension. For $R, S \in \mathbf{C}$, write $R \leq_T^P S$ if $R \leq_T S$ via an OTM that, on input n , runs in time polynomial in n , and similarly for \equiv_T^P .

Theorem 2.10 (Fortnow, Hitchcock, Aduri, Vinodchandran and Wang [4]). *For all $\epsilon > 0$ and all $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_P(S) > 0$, there exists $R \equiv_T^P S$ such that $\dim_P(R) \geq 1 - \epsilon$.*

In fact, Theorem 2.10 holds for any resource-bounded packing dimension [9] defined by Turing machines allowed at least polynomial space, which includes constructive packing dimension as a special case, thus proving a spectrum of zero-one packing dimension laws for various dimensions above polynomial space and degrees and lower spans that are at least polynomial-time computable.

3 Nonexistence of Universal Extractors

The wtt reduction in the proof of Theorem 2.5 is uniform in the sense that, for all $\epsilon > 0$, there is a *single* wtt reduction M , universal for ϵ and all sequences S , such that $\dim_H(M(S)) \geq \dim_H(S)/\dim_P(S) - \epsilon$.

While it remains open whether Turing reductions can extract constructive Hausdorff dimension, we can show that there is no *universal* Turing reduction that is guaranteed to increase – to a fixed amount – the dimension of all sequences of sufficiently large dimension.

Theorem 3.1. *For every Turing reduction M and all reals α, β with $0 < \alpha < \beta < 1$, there exists $S \in \mathbf{C}$ with $\dim_H(S) \geq \alpha$ such that $M(S)$ does not exist or $\dim_H(M(S)) < \beta$.*

Proof. For this proof, it will be convenient to say that $R \leq_T S$ via M if $M^S(n)$ outputs $R[n]$, rather than $R[0..n-1]$, bearing in mind that both definitions of a Turing reduction are equivalent.

Suppose for the sake of contradiction that there exist real numbers α, β with $0 < \alpha < \beta < 1$ and a Turing reduction M such that, for all $S \in \mathbf{C}$ satisfying $\dim_H(S) \geq \alpha$, then

$\dim_{\text{H}}(R) \geq \beta$, where $R = M(S)$. Fix rationals α', γ such that $\alpha < \alpha' < \gamma < \beta$. We will convert M into a tt reduction N (meaning that N is also a wtt reduction) that guarantees the slightly weaker condition that if $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) > \alpha'$, then $\dim_{\text{H}}(N(S)) \geq \beta$. Then for any $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) = \gamma > \alpha'$, it follows that $\dim_{\text{H}}(N(S)) \geq \beta > \gamma = \dim_{\text{H}}(S)$, which contradicts Theorem 2.1.

On input $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and with oracle sequence S , $N^S(n)$ simulates $M^S(n)$. In parallel, for all integers $m > n$, N searches for a program of length at most $\alpha'm$ computing $S[0..m-1]$. If N finds such a program before the simulation of $M^S(n)$ terminates, then N outputs 0. If instead the simulation of $M^S(n)$ halts before such a short program is found, then N outputs $R[n]$, the output bit of $M^S(n)$.

If $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) < \alpha'$, then for infinitely many $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $C(S[0..m-1]) \leq \alpha'm$. Therefore N^S halts, although the output sequence $N(S)$ may contain a lot of 0's, which is acceptable because we do not care what N outputs if $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) < \alpha'$.

If $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) \geq \alpha'$, then by hypothesis, M^S is guaranteed to halt and to compute R such that $\dim_{\text{H}}(R) \geq \beta$. Therefore N^S halts, establishing that N is a tt reduction. If $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) = \alpha'$, then once again, we do not care what N outputs. If $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) > \alpha'$, then only finitely many m satisfy $C(S[0..m-1]) \leq \alpha'm$. Therefore the parallel search for short programs will never succeed once N begins checking only prefixes of S of sufficiently large length. This means that from that point on, N will simulate M exactly, computing a sequence R' that is a finite variation of R . Since dimension is unchanged under finite variations, $\dim_{\text{H}}(R') = \dim_{\text{H}}(R) \geq \beta$. \square

Theorem 3.1 tells us that, contrary to the proofs of Theorems 2.4 and 2.5, any extractor construction for Turing reductions must make use of some property of the sequence beyond a simple bound on its dimension.

4 Bounded Reductions

In this section, we show that bounded reductions cannot extract dimension, and we exhibit sequences from which bounded reductions are able to extract dimension, but not wtt reductions, and vice versa. We also show that any sequence that does not tt-compute a sequence of positive packing dimension cannot bT-compute a sequence of positive Hausdorff dimension.

4.1 Nonexistence of Bounded Extractors

The next theorem shows that bounded Turing reductions cannot extract dimension.

Theorem 4.1. *For every rational number α with $0 < \alpha < 1$, there exists a sequence $S \in \mathbf{C}$ such that, for all bounded reductions M , $\dim_{\text{H}}(M(S)) \leq \dim_{\text{H}}(S) = \alpha$.*

Proof. For brevity, we refer to the proof of Theorem 2.1 in [14], as our proof is obtained by a slight modification of that proof. Nies and Reimann in [14] construct S via a finite-injury

argument, in which S is a limit-recursive (i.e., Δ_2^0) sequence given by the prefixes

$$s_0, s_1, \dots \in \{0, 1\}^*,$$

where, for each $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $m_i = |s_i|$, $s_i \sqsubset s_{i+1}$, and s_i is chosen to diagonalize against the i^{th} wtt reduction. The finite-injury construction may change each s_i finitely often, thereby injuring all s_j for $j \geq i$, but each change will be to a string s'_i of the same length m_i .

The intuitive idea behind the proof of Theorem 2.1 is that each $s_i \in \{0, 1\}^{m_i}$ is chosen to be an α -incompressible string (i.e., $C(s) \geq \alpha|s|$ for all prefixes $s \sqsubseteq s_i$) that guarantees that the i^{th} wtt reduction with oracle s_i either diverges or outputs an α -compressible string. In parallel, the construction searches for a program of length at most $\alpha|s|$ that outputs a prefix $s \sqsubseteq s_i$, which would contradict the supposed incompressibility of s_i . If no such short program is ever found, then this means that s_i is “doing its part” to ensure that $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) \geq \alpha$. If such a short program is found, then a new $s'_i \in \{0, 1\}^{m_i}$ is chosen (in order to guarantee that $\dim_{\text{H}}(S) \geq \alpha$), and this new choice of s'_i constitutes an injury to all later prefixes s_{i+1}, s_{i+2}, \dots , a new search must begin for strings extending s'_i rather than s_i . The above description is slightly inaccurate; to be more precise, s_i is chosen not only to be α -incompressible *itself*, but also to have a measure of at least $2^{-2^{i-1}}$ of α -incompressible *extensions*, to ensure future requirements have many extensions of s_i from which to choose. The abundance of incompressible strings ensures that this invariant may be maintained for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. However, the idea is the same: enumerating too many α -compressible extensions of s_i means the i^{th} requirement must change to a different s'_i , causing injury to future extensions.

The key idea needed by Nies and Reimann is that a very large fraction of $\{0, 1\}^{m_i}$ is incompressible, which is in turn used to obtain compression of the *output* $M(S)$ (if it exists for wtt reduction M). To show that bounded reductions cannot extract dimension, we modify the proof of Theorem 2.1 slightly to introduce one additional type of injury: whenever it is discovered that, for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the n^{th} binary string (call this σ_n) is computed by a program of length less than $\log \log n$, then we set $S[n] = 0$ (thereby possibly causing an injury in all s_i ’s of length at least n , all of which are now required to obey $s_i[n] = 0$ to ensure that $S[n] = 0$ in the limit). The scarcity of programs of length $< \log \log n$ ensures that only a logarithmic density of such n ’s exist in any prefix of S , so $\dim_{\text{H}}(S)$ remains unchanged. Furthermore, this scarcity ensures that the set of strings of length m that have the bit 0 at all indices $n < m$ such that $C(\sigma_n) < \log \log n$ is of cardinality at least $2^{m - \log m}$. Since incompressible strings are similarly abundant, we modify the proof of Nies and Reimann so that each s_i is required *both* to have a large measure of extensions that are incompressible *and* that are 0 at every index n with $C(\sigma_n) < \log \log n$, knowing that there are a large measure of strings satisfying both conditions. In particular, define

$$\mathcal{P} = \{ Z \in \mathbf{C} \mid \forall n > n_0 [C(Z[0..n-1]) \geq \lfloor \alpha n \rfloor \text{ and } Z[m] = 0 \text{ if } C(\sigma_m) < \log |\sigma_m|] \}.$$

where n_0 is large enough that \mathcal{P} has measure at least $1/2$. S is chosen to be an element of \mathcal{P} , as in [14]. There, Nies and Reimann [14] defined \mathcal{P} to ensure only the first condition, but it is not difficult to verify that the remainder of their proof goes through with \mathcal{P}

as defined above; i.e., that the S chosen from \mathcal{P} wtt-computes no sequence of higher Hausdorff dimension than S . The key idea is that, in the proof of Lemma 3.2 of [14], if a string s_i is injured by our additional requirement (i.e., because $s_i[n] = 1$ initially, but it is later discovered that $C(n) < \log \log n$), then this discovery must result from enumerating program of length at most $\log \log n < \alpha|s_i|$, which is all that is needed for the original proof to work.

It remains to show that this modification ensures that no bounded reduction can extract Hausdorff dimension from S . Let M be a bounded reduction and let $R = M(S)$, if it exists, and let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Then, whenever $M^S(k)$ queries $S[n]$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, this constitutes a computation of σ_n from an input of length $\log k + O(1)$, implying that $C(\sigma_n) \leq \log k + O(1)$. (The extra $O(1)$ information is needed to specify M , as well as the order in which the query is made and the answers to queries prior to σ_n , both of which are constant length if M is a bounded reduction.)

If $n > 2^{2^k}$, then the answer to the query must be 0, since we ensured that all n computable from an input as short as k satisfy $S[n] = 0$. Therefore, on input k , any query beyond 2^{2^k} may be replaced by a constant 0 to obtain the wtt reduction M' , which will behave the same as M , implying $R = M'(S)$. But Theorem 2.1 tells us that M' cannot extract dimension from S because it is a wtt reduction, so $\dim_H(R) \leq \alpha$. \square

4.2 Bounded Reductions versus Weak Truth-Table Reductions

The next theorem exhibits a sequence from which a bounded reduction can extract packing dimension, but no weak truth-table reduction can extract packing dimension.

Theorem 4.2. *There is a sequence $A \in \mathbf{C}$ such that every sequence $B \leq_{\text{wtt}} A$ satisfies $\dim_P(B) = 0$ while there exists a sequence $E \leq_{\text{bT}} A$ that satisfies $\dim_P(E) = 1$.*

Proof. For a recursively enumerable language R with some standard enumeration R_0, R_1, R_2, \dots , we define the convergence-module c_R of R by

$$c_R(x) = x + \min \{ s \in \mathbb{N} \mid \forall y \leq x [R_s[y] = R[y]] \}$$

Notice that R computes c_R and that any function that majorizes c_R computes R . Let now L be a recursively enumerable maximal language of complete Turing-degree (see [16] for definitions). The maximality of L ensures that the complement \bar{L} of L is very sparse in the sense that the function $n \mapsto$ (the n -th integer that does not belong to L) dominates every recursive function. Let Ω be a Martin-Löf random sequence (for example the sequence of the same name constructed by Chaitin) and let B be a recursively enumerable language of high but incomplete Turing degree with the property that c_B dominates every recursive function. Such sequences B exist [23, Page 220, Exercise XI.2.7]. Now define the following language A :

$$\langle x, y \rangle \in A \iff (x \in L \wedge y = 0) \vee (x \in \Omega \wedge y > c_B(x)).$$

For the first part of the theorem, we show that every sequence wtt-reducible to A has packing dimension 0. For this, it is enough to show that for every computable function f and almost all n the plain Kolmogorov-complexity of $A[0..f(n)-1]$ is of order logarithmic in n and hence no wtt-reduction with use f can produce a sequence of positive packing dimension. Now, given f computable (which we can assume to be increasing), note that c_B dominates the function $m \mapsto f(2^m)$. Furthermore, there are, for sufficiently large n , at most $\log n$ non-elements of L below $f(n)$. Moreover, for sufficiently large n , if a pair $\langle x, y \rangle \leq f(n)$ (which in particular means that both x and y are smaller than $f(n)$) satisfies $y \geq c_B(x)$, then one has $f(n) \geq y \geq c_B(x) \geq f(2^x)$, which, since f is increasing implies $x \leq \log n$. Thus, for sufficiently large n , a pair $\langle x, y \rangle \leq f(n)$ is in A if and only if either $x \in L \wedge y = 0$ or $x \leq \log n \wedge y > c_B(x) \wedge x \in \Omega$. Hence, for almost n , $C(A[0..f(n)-1]) \leq 4 \log n$: one can use $\log n$ bits to code B below $\log n$, one can use $\log n$ bits to code $\Omega[0..\log n-1]$ and one can use $\log n$ bits to code how many elements of L below $f(n)$ are not in L ; then enumerating L long enough gives away which of the elements below $f(n)$ are in L and which not. The remaining $\log n$ bits are an overhead used to absorb the various constants stemming from coding this information within the framework of a given universal machine and so on. These arguments show then that no sequence of positive packing dimension is wtt-reducible to A .

For the second part of the theorem, we construct a sequence $E \leq_{\text{bT}} A$ which has packing dimension 1. For this, let $I_n = \{n!, n! + 1, n! + 2, \dots, (n+1)! - 1\}$ and define $E[x]$ for $x \in I_n$ as follows: First check whether $\langle n, 0 \rangle \in A$. If not, let $E[x] = 0$. If so, determine the time y needed to enumerate n into L and let $E[x] = A[\langle x, y \rangle]$. This algorithm shows that $E[x]$ can be computed relative to A with 2 queries and $E \leq_{\text{bT}} A$. As $L \not\leq_T B$ (because B has incomplete r.e. degree) there are infinitely many n such that the time y to enumerate n into L satisfies $y > c_B((n+1)!)$ (if this was not the case, then the function $n \mapsto (n+1)! + c_B((n+1)!)$, which is B -recursive, would be an upper bound for c_L , which would imply $L \leq_T B$, a contradiction). It follows that for these n the characteristic functions of Ω and E coincide on I_n ; hence $C(E[0..(n+1)!-1]) \geq \frac{n}{n+2} \cdot (n+1)!$ for almost all these n . So $\dim_{\text{P}}(E) = 1$. \square

The next theorem exhibits a sequence from which a weak truth-table reduction can extract Hausdorff dimension, but no bounded reduction can even extract packing dimension.

Theorem 4.3. *There is a sequence $A \in \mathbf{C}$ such that every sequence $E \leq_{\text{bT}} A$ satisfies $\dim_{\text{P}}(E) = 0$ while there exists a sequence $B \leq_{\text{wtt}} A$ that satisfies $\dim_{\text{H}}(B) = 1$.*

Proof. Let $B = \Omega$ be Chaitin's Martin-Löf random sequence and define $A \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\langle x, y \rangle \in A \iff x \in \Omega \wedge C(y) \geq 2^x.$$

It holds that $\Omega \leq_{\text{wtt}} A$ as $x \in \Omega$ if and only if there is a $y \leq 2^x$ with $\langle x, y \rangle \in A$. As Ω is Martin-Löf random, $\dim_{\text{H}}(\Omega) = 1$, and the second part of the theorem is satisfied.

Now consider any sequence $E \leq_{\text{bT}} A$. For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, each of the elements queried by the given bT-reduction to compute $E[0..n-1]$ have Kolmogorov complexity at most

$c \cdot \log n$, for some constant $c \in \mathbb{N}$, by the same argument in the proof of Theorem 4.1. Let $\langle x, y \rangle$ be a query in this computation. As $C(y) \geq 2^x$ if $\langle x, y \rangle \in A$, this query can get an answer “yes” only if $2^x \leq c \cdot \log n$. There are only $c \cdot \log \log n$ many x with this property, and for each such x , one can code, using $O(\log n)$ bits, the number of y such that $C(y) < 2^x$. By simulating the universal machine long enough, one may compute all these y for each such x . Since there are at most $c \cdot \log \log n$ such x with this property, the set of all queries $\langle x, y \rangle$ such that, when computing $E[0..n-1]$, the query $\langle x, y \rangle$ has answer “yes”, can be computed from an input of $O(\log n \cdot \log \log n)$ bits.

Hence one can compute $E[0..n-1]$ from an input of size $O(\log n \cdot \log \log n)$ by computing the pairs $\langle x, y \rangle$ described above, and then running the bT-reduction with this information to determine which queries have answer “yes”. Since this holds for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, it follows that $\dim_P(E) = 0$. \square

4.3 Truth-Table and Bounded Reductions

Our final result shows that any sequence that does not tt-compute a sequence of positive *packing* dimension cannot bT-compute a sequence of positive *Hausdorff* dimension.

Theorem 4.4. *Let $A \in \mathbf{C}$ such that, for every sequence $E \leq_{\text{tt}} A$, $\dim_P(E) = 0$. Then, for every sequence $B \leq_{\text{bT}} A$, $\dim_H(B) = 0$.*

Proof. Let k be the maximum number of queries made by the bounded Turing reduction M from B to A . Furthermore, let I_n contain all numbers m with $n! \leq m < (n+1)!$. Now let c_n be the number of pairs $(m, b_1 b_2 \dots b_k)$ such that $m \in I_n$, $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \{0, 1\}$ and M on input m converges provided that the oracle queries are answers with b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k where not all bits might be needed. The sequence $c_n/|I_n|$ oscillates between 0 and 2^k .

Now let ϵ be any positive real number. One can choose a number δ with $0 < \delta < \epsilon/4$ such that for almost all m the Kolmogorov complexity of every string in $\{0, 1\}^m$ containing at most $\delta \cdot m$ many digits 1 is at most $m \cdot \epsilon/4$. There is a rational number q such that $q \leq c_n/|I_n|$ for almost all n and $c_n/|I_n| < q + \delta$ for infinitely many n . There is a recursive function f such that $f(n)$ bounds for every n with $c_n/|I_n| \geq q$ the convergence time and places of queries for computations of M for $q \cdot |I_n|$ many tuples $(m, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k)$ with $m \in I_n$ and $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k \in \{0, 1\}$ such that M takes input m and receives the oracle answers taken from (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_k) .

Having this, one can define the following sequence E : for all n and all $m \in I_n$, one follows the activity of M on oracle A for $f(n)$ steps and let $E[m]$ be the result provided that M terminates within the given time $f(n)$ and that M also does not query A beyond $f(n)$. Otherwise $E[m] = 0$.

This is a truth-table reduction and hence the packing dimension of E is 0. Hence $C(E[0..(n+1)!]) \leq |I_n| \cdot \delta$ for almost all n . By construction $E \subseteq B$ and $|I_n \cap (B - E)| \leq \delta \cdot |I_n|$ for the n with $q \leq c_n/|I_n| < q + \delta$. Furthermore, $n!/|I_n| < \delta \cdot |I_n|$ for almost all n and so it follows that the conditional Kolmogorov complexity of $B[0..(n+1)!]$ given $E[0..(n+1)!]$ is at most $2 \cdot \delta \cdot (n+1)!$ for infinitely many n . It follows therefore that

$C(B[0 \dots (n+1)!]) \leq \epsilon \cdot (n+1)!$ for infinitely many n . As the choice of $\epsilon > 0$ was arbitrary, $\dim_{\mathbb{H}}(B) = 0$. \square

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